

Message Text

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TO USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA PRIORITY

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

USMISSION GENEVA

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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GE;EVA FOR CSCE

INFO FOR PAOS

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1. HIGHLIGHTS. INDOCHINA CONTINUED PRIME FOCUS OVER WEEKEND. MONDAY WASHPOST ALSO FRONTPAGES HILL LEADERS SEE VIETNAM EXPERIENCE AS CHALLENGE TO MILITARY PROGRAM. COMMENT SCATTERED.

1A. THURSDAY WASHSTAR INSIDE HAD FORD TO VISIT NATO BUT GISCARD WON'T; ALSO FORD HINTSBREZHNEV TO DELAY US VISIT. FRIDAY NYTIMES REPORTED KISSINGER TOLD WESTERN EUROPEAN NEWSMEN HE EXPECTS PORTUGAL BY NEXT YEAR TO BE A COMMUNIST NATION OR NEUTRALIST UNDER HEAVY COMMUNIST INFLUENCE. BALTSUN REPORTED SOVIET SURE US WILL END ITS EMIGRATION-

TRADE TIE.

1B. SATURDAY PAPERS REPORTED MAY NATO MEETING WILL BE SUMMIT PARLEY;NYTIMES SAID FOUR SOVIET TASK FORCES IN PACIFIC PART OF GLOBAL EXERCISES.

1C. SOME SUNDAY PAPERS REPORTED VIENNA TALKS IN RECESS; NYTIMES ALSO HAD BALTS IN US FEAR AMERICAN POLICY SHIFT ON SOVIET INCORPORATION; BALTSUN REPORTED GROMYKO SAID PREPARATIONS NEEDED BEFORE MIDEAST GENEVA TALKS;ALSO INDIAN SATELLITE LAUNCHED IN SOVIET.

1D. MONDAY WASHPOST HAS MOSCOW, LATEST SOVIET ARRESTS VIEWED AS OPEN CHALLENGE TO WEST.

2. VIENNA. SUNDAY BALSUN HAD NYTIMES PIECE FROM VIENNA SAYING MBFR CONFEREES CONCLUDED FIFTH ROUND OF TALKS AND BEGAN THREE WEEK RECESS WITH BOTH NATO AND WARSAW PACT COUNTRIES ADMITTING LACK OF PROGRESS TOWARD GOAL BUT REMAINING PUBLICLY HOPEFUL. DELEGATES SAID PRIVATELY THEY ARE WAITING FOR OUTCOME OF CSCEAND EXPECT FORD-BREZHNEV SUMMIT LATER THIS YEAR TO PROVIDE IMPETUS FOR TALKS ON MBFR. SUNDAY NYTIMES ADDED THAT BOTH SIDES ARE CLOSER ON ONE POINT THAN PREVIOUSLY, THAT WHILE COMMUNISTS HAVE REFUSED TO RECOGNIZE WESTERN ISSUE OF THE BASIC IMBALANCE OF TROOPS, THEYHAVE COMPROMISED SLIGHTLY ON QUESTION OF WHICH SIDE ACTS FIRST AGREEING THAT US AND USSR COULD BEGIN REDUCTIONS IF ALL OTHER NATIONS WOULD PROMISE TO REDUCE THEIR UNCLASSIFIED

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FORCES IN SIX MONTHS.

3. NATO. FRIDAY BALTSUN TREWHITT WASHINGTON REPORTED FORD WILL BE AT NATO SUMMIT, PROBABLY MAY 29 OR 30, DESPITE THE ABSENCE OF SEVERAL OTHER HEADS OF GOVERNMENT, TREWHITT ADDING THAT THE NUMBER OF ABSENCES (PERHAPS FROM FRANCE GREECE TURKEY PORTUGAL) WILLBEAR DIRECTLY ON THE US PURPOSE AT NATO HEADQUARTERS:TO REAFFIRM THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE AT A TIME OF EXTREME DISARRAY IN US FOREIGN POLICY.

3A. SATURDAY NYTIMES HAD BRUSSELS AP REPORTING ON AGREE-
MENT TO TURN NATO'S MAY MEETING INTO SUMMITON 29 AND

30, AP ADDING GISCARD WILL BE ABSENT AND GREECE AND TURKEY MAY NOT BE REPRESENTED AT HIGHEST LEVEL.

3B. WASHPOST FOUQUET BRUSSELS ADDED THERE WAS NO PRECISION ABOUT NATO MAY AGENDA, SAYING SUMMIT HAD ORIGINALLY BEEN ENVISIONED AS A DISPLAY OF SOLIDARITY BEFORE AN ANTICIPATED SUMMIT TO END CSCE. FOUQUET REPORTED NATO SOURCES INDICATED THEY WOULDN'T EXPECT ANY ALLIED APPROVAL OF HELSINKI SUMMIT UNLESS GENEVA TALKS MAKE MORE PROGRESS, RATHER THEY EXPECT MAY GATHERING TO BE A WORKING SESSION TO EXAMINE RECENT

WORLD EVENTS AND THEIR IMPACT ON THE ALLIANCE AT A TIME WHEN PUBLIC AND PRESS IN EUROPE DISPLAYED CONSIDERABLE CONCERN ABOUT CREDIBILITY OF AMERICA'S COMMITMENTS TO EUROPE IN VIEW OF SETBACKS IN MIDEAST AND INDOCHINA. FOUQUET QUOTED ONE NATO INSIDER AS EXPECTING MAINLY A DEMONSTRATIVE AND PSYCHOLOGICAL EXERCISE WITH AS MUCH SUBSTANCE AS POSSIBLE, ADDING THERE COULD BE A REAFFIRMA-

TION OF FAITH SOMEWHERE BETWEEN OTTAWA DECLARATION AND USUAL COMMUNIQUE. BALTSUN HAD SIMILAR STORY FROM OISHI IN BONN.

4. DEFENSE POLICY. MONDAY WASHPOST WILSON LOCAL REPORTS A WIDE SPECTRUM OF CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS SAID IN ASSESSING US ROLE IN VIETNAM THAT US MUST ACKNOWLEDGE THE LIMITS OF ITS MILITARY POWER AND RELY MORE ON OTHER METHODS TO UNCLASSIFIED

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INFLUENCE WORLD EVENTS, ALSO A RELATED CONCLUSION EXPRESSED IN A SERIES OF INTERVIEWS WITH SEN. STENNIS AND MCCLELLAN AND REPS. MAHON AND REUSS IS THAT THE MIS-CALCULATIONS GENERALS AND ADMIRALS SEEM TO HAVE COMMITTED MAKE THEM AS VULNERABLE TO CHALLENGE AS OTHER GOVERNMENT LEADERS, AND THAT PENTAGO LEADERS WILL BE CHALLENGED MORE-- RATHER THAN LESS AS FORD HAD HOPED. WILSON ADDS MILITARY LEADERS SAY THEY REALIZE THEY ARE CHALLENGED BUT HOPE TO SHOW THAT MILITARY AND ECONOMIC STRENGTH ARE INTERRELATED, NOT COMPETITIVE. WILSON SEES TEST NEXT MONTH IN DEBATE ON B-1 BOMBER. MCCLELLAN DIFFERED WITH REUSS' IDEA THAT US COULD RELY LARGELY ON ECONOMIC POWER TO EXERT A COOPERATIVE WORLD LEADERSHIP; HE AND MAHON HAVE ADOPTED TACTIC OF CUTTING DEFENSE BUDGET FIVE BILLION IN HOPES OF PREVENTING DEEPER CUTS IMPOSED ON FLOOR.

5. SOVIET RELATIONS. THURSDAY WASHSTAR SQUIB REPORTED PRES. FORD TOLD MEMBERS OF ASNE AT RECEPTION THERE WAS A POSSIBILITY BREZHNEV MAY POSTPONE TRIP UNTIL SEPTEMBER, ITEM SAYING FORD GAVE NO REASON FOR A CHANGE. FRIDAY BALTSUN TREWHITT PIECE REPORTED HELSINKI SUMMIT WAS TENTATIVELY SET FOR JULY AND FORD WILL MEET BREZHNEV IN

WASHINGTON PROBABLY IN LATE AUGUST OR SEPTEMBER.

5A. FRIDAY BALTSUN PARKS MOSCOW REPORTED ON PRAVDA EDITORIAL WHICH EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE US WILL LIFT THE POLITICAL RESTRICTIONS ON SOVIET-AMERICAN TRADE, PARKS ADDING KREMLIN EVIDENTLY INTENDS TO MAKE THE TRADE ISSUE A TEST OF WASHINGTON'S SINCERITY ON THE PROCESS OF DETENTE, AND EDITORIAL CLEARLY INDICATED MOSCOW FEELS THAT THE FUTURE OF DETENTE ITSELF, NOT JUST EXPANDED TRADE, IS AT ISSUE.

5B. SUNDAY BALTSUN PARKS MOSCOW ON GROMYKO'S REMARKS AT FAHMY DINNER REPORTED SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTER MADE A POINT OF REASSURING US THAT MOSCOW'S DESIRE FOR BETTER RELATIONS WITH CAIRO IS NOT INTENDED TO UNDERCUT AMERICAN EFFORTS TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH EGYPT, PARKS ADDING THIS ASSURANCE WAS TAKEN BY OBSERVERS AS A SIGNAL TO WASHINGTON THAT MOSCOW'S IMMEDIATE GOAL IS BETTER RELATIONS WITH CAIRO THAT WILL MAKE POSSIBLE SUCCESSFUL WORK UNCLASSIFIED

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ON A MIDEAST PEACE SETTLEMENT.

5C. MONDAY WASHPOST OSNOS REPORTS THAT TURCHIN OF AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL HAS CHARGED THE AUTHORITIES HAVE DECIDED TO BREAK UP THE RUSSIAN CHAPTER IN A SELF-CONFIDENT CHALLENGE TO THE WEST, TURCHIN SAYING KGB TELLS US PUBLIC OPINION ABROAD HAS GROWN BORED WITH CASES LIKE OURS AND THAT THEY CAN DO WHAT THEY WANT. OSNOS SAYS THAT A SOVIET MOVE WHICH COULD BE INTERPRETED AS SUPPRESSION OF AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL MIGHT PROVE EMBARRASSING AT CSCE.

6. COMMENTS. APRIL 9 KANSAS CITY TIMES EDITORIAL SAID THE BASIC QUESTION OF WHETHER WESTERN NATIONS SHOULD ACCEPT SMALL GAINS THEY HAVE MADE AT CSCE OR DEMAND FREER EXCHANGE OF PEOPLE AND IDEAS SHOULD BE RESOLVED BY ALLIES BEFORE HELSINKI SUMMIT. HOW MUCH SOVIETS MAYBE REALISTICALLY EXPECTED TO GIVE IN RETURN FOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THEIR EAST EUROPEAN HEGEMONY IS A DELICATE QUESTION.

6A. MONDAY BALTSUN EDITORIAL SAID THAT WHILE RUSSIANS SEEM TO BE TRYING TO PROVE THAT THEY REALLY WANT RAPPROCHMENT WITH U.S. BY USING RESTRAINT DURING CURRENT DECLINE OF U.S. INFLUENCE, U.S. HAS GOOD REASON TO BE SKEPTICAL TOWARD RUSSIANS. BUT IF KREMLIN CONTINUES TO TREAT DETENTE AS A WORKING BASIS FOR THE SUPERPOWER RELATIONSHIP, FORD ADMINISTRATION WILL BE JUSTIFIED IN PURSUING NEW SALT AGREEMENT AND TRADE ARRANGEMENTS.

6B. FRIDAY BALTSUN HAD MARQUIS CHILDS COLUMN SAYING

LOBBYISTS ARGUE THAT CUTS IN DEFENSE BUDGET, ESPECIALLY B-1 BOMBER PROGRAM, WILL RESULT IN GREAT LOSS OF JOBS, BUT BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS HAS ESTIMATES SHOWING OTHER FORMS OF PUBLICLY SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT PRODUCE HIGHER RATIO OF JOBS TO MONEY SPENT.

7. NEWSWEEK. PERISCOPE HAS PARA, WHAT MOSCOW DIDN'T ANNOUNCE,SAYING RECENT EMERGENCY LANDING OF SOYUZ WAS FAR MORE PERILOUS THAN MOSCOW'S OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

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INDICATED. THE SHIP CAME DOWN ON A PRECIPITOUS 45-DEGREE SLOPE IN THE ALTAI MOUNTAINS NEAR THE SOVIET MONGOLIAN BORDER AND WAS KEPT FROM PLUNGING TO DESTRUCTION ONLY BECAUSE THE SHROUDS OF ITS PARACHUTE BECAME ENTANGLED IN A STAND OF PINE TREES, SAYS PERISCOPE. KISSINGER

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